



# Maine Farmer.

Shall We Plant Sugar Beets?

Several hundred farmers in the State of Maine are to-day asking themselves the question: "Shall we plant sugar beets for the factory in Portland at the price the company can afford to pay?" Without wishing to answer the question directly, let us look at the facts and see.

The Company offers \$5.50 for 240 pounds of unwashed beets free from earth and stones, if delivered on the cars before September 25th; if delivered before October 10th, \$5.25; if delivered after October 10th, \$5.00. This is an advance on last year's prices for early deliveries, and the same price as last year for late deliveries, the object being to work the beets up early, and thus to pay the farmers who crop sugar beets more than they would otherwise have to pay in buying their beets in the market.

The Company also offers to sell to the farmer who raises an acre of sugar beets a car load of beet pulp, containing 10 tons, at \$1 per ton and freight—that is to say at a cost of \$1.50 to \$1.80 per ton delivered at the farmer's station. This is about one-third the price paid for the same weight of beets. This pulp, by many who have used it, is said to be worth more than an equal weight of hay, and if properly stored, will keep good for a year.

At the price paid last fall, 150 farmers, whose names have been published, received from \$400 to \$1500 from the product of a single acre; 150 others received an average of \$75 per acre. Many, however, were successful, owing to favorable conditions. But it is evident that 150 farmers at all might do, and it is therefore safe to say that 20 tons, or \$100, can be had from the crop of one acre. This is more than the average return from any other staple crop.

Let us see how the account would stand if a farmer should raise 20 tons, and buy a car load of pulp. He will get for the beets \$100, and will pay for the pulp \$18, leaving him in cash \$82, and 10 tons of feed, which last if fed to milk cows, at the rate of 40 pounds per ton, will save him all his grain and half his hay, besides increasing the flow of milk equal to grass. Three head of cattle will eat one car load of pulp over the time the hay and grain fall comes in the spring. On this showing, every farmer who keeps three or more head of cattle, can well afford to raise one acre of sugar beets for the Company, buying back in exchange a car load of beet pulp.

One acre out of 400 in the State of Maine, if planted in sugar beets, would supply the whole State Sugar Company with the manufactured product worth one hundred million dollars per annum. In view of the vast importance of the establishment of this industry in our State, we wish that every farmer within four miles of a railroad station, who has good land, well manured, would at once contract with the Maine Beet Sugar Company to raise one acre or more of beets from seed furnished by them, and that he would take in exchange a car load of beet pulp, so as to give the matter a fair trial. We are glad to observe that the New England Agricultural Society has offered a premium of \$50 for the best two acres of sugar beets. The prize is given to the competition of the farmers of Maine.

# For Congress to restrict or regulate the sale of this counterfeit which threatens, by the low price at which it can be afforded, to take away all the profit from legitimate dairymen; if it does not drive dairy butter entirely out of the market.

A suit was recently on trial in the United States Court at Chicago, in which the United States Dairy Company brings an action for infringement of a patent for rendering fat at a low temperature into a condition to be transformed into oleomargarine. The fact was brought in, in the testimony, that this pseudo-butter is now manufactured and sold in the United States at the rate of about one hundred million pounds per annum, and the strange part of it, that the stuff is not put by name in the market reports and cannot be found on sale in any of the grocery stores, even in the large cities. No retail grocer will admit that he ever has it on sale, all of which goes to show that it is palmed off by the name under the name of butter. We have never tasted nor ever seen a specimen of this substitute for butter, nor have we any hankering after it. All sorts of stories are told about it, and if half of them are true, it is full time for the strong arm of the law to step in and put a stop to its manufacture and sale. It is said that the fat of animals which have died from injury during transportation or from disease, rancid oil, stink and tallow and fat in every condition, are used in the process of manufacture, and the vile stuff, after being worked off salted and colored, is packed down solid into kirkins and like like dairy butter, and even made into balls and stamped with the sheet of wheat or rye flour, and some other device common among dairymen.

We do not say that there may not be something valuable in the discovery of Professor Mourié, and a substance made from clean tallow might be preferable as a relish, to the rancid butter which is so frequently found in our markets and upon the tables of our boarding houses. But the temptations of trade are very strong, and the amount of fat required by the dairy industry is enormous, so great that the demand for it is not likely to be supplied without resort to the methods of which the manufacturers of oleomargarine are accused. If allowed to be manufactured at all, it should be under close inspection, and should be placed upon the markets true to name; the purchaser will know just what he is buying. The product of itself is well calculated to deceive; its color is perfect, and being churned in milk before it is put upon the market, it has the color of butter; and when the other best test is applied, that of taste, many are deceived. For ourselves, if made of the cleanest material, we do not want it. We prefer the old-fashioned constitutional butter to post-mortem grease of any kind; and further, we do not like to be deceived, and we hold to the law to protect us by having things called by their right names.

# "The Board shall investigate all such subjects relating to agriculture, horticulture and acts connected therewith, as they may think proper and may take and hold in trust, donations or bequests made to it for promoting agricultural education, or the general interests of husbandry." To carry out the provisions of this section, the Legislature appropriated twelve hundred dollars, all of which were drawn out by the Board and expended for that purpose.

The salary of the Secretary was reduced to one hundred dollars, because as no volume was to be published, he would have but little work to do; but this one hundred dollar was not intended to cover expenses. The following is the section of the act relating to the Secretary:

"The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture shall receive one hundred dollars in full for his services and such necessary expenses as shall be allowed by the Governor and Council." The neglect to place a comma between the words "services" and "and" makes the meaning a little ambiguous, but there is no question as to what was intended by the Legislature, because four hundred dollars were appropriated for this purpose, and of this sum, three hundred and seventy-five dollars and eleven cents were drawn out by the Secretary. These corrections may not be of much importance, but we wish for the State Government to have the credit of all it does for the benefit of its agriculture, which is always little enough.

Our Fertilizers.

"If we could have phosphate fertilizers, finely ground, says the *Journal of Chemistry*, that the product would be an invaluable one. It would hardly be necessary to repeat the benefits of phosphate fertilizers with acids. The only advantage of using acids, and changing tricalcium phosphate into bicarbonate or monocalcium phosphate, is that thereby we render them more rapidly soluble, and consequently they are made ready for crops with less loss of time. The phosphate fertilizer in the acid treatment of bone is time; for nature acts slowly in fitting plant food for easy assimilation. This is, however, something more than the time gained, as the chemical changes effected go beyond what nature could effect in the soil. If we sow on our fields ground bone or mineral phosphate in their raw condition, they are not acted upon by the soil which contains carbonic acid; and by this combined action we get an equivalent of lime removed, and the bicarbonate phosphate is formed. This is slowly soluble in water, and is thus taken up into the circulation of plants in soluble form. Carbonic acid does not carry the decomposition so far as the stronger acid (carbonic) does, which changes bone powder once over into monocalcium phosphate or superphosphate.

There is good reason to believe that monocalcium phosphate, or superphosphate, is too acid in its character to enter into the circulation of plants. If a fertilizer containing superphosphate be added to a soil containing lime, it will be neutralized, and the lime will be lost. The lime, which changes bone powder once over into monocalcium phosphate, and this we cannot doubt is the better way. In the manufacture of our home-made phosphates we have used much less acid than is generally employed, and we like the product better. It is more lasting; it gradually nourishes crops, and is not lost by being washed out of the soil.

This whole matter of cooking plant food needs to be carefully considered, and if we on the wrong track let us get back into the right one as soon as possible. We can help Nature vastly without doubt, but we must remember that Nature's laws are unerring, and whenever we do violence to her teachings, or go beyond that measure of help which is permitted, we go wrong, and our interests suffer in consequence.

# For the Maine Farmer.

While reading the letter from "W. W. of Washburn," in the *Maine Farmer*, I was surprised to know that a Maine farmer, who ought and should have been so much in sympathy with Maine and its productions, should come to so narrow conclusions from so small an experiment, but as he says it is not for what is a word, "Has God and Nature changed within 60 or 80 years?" Had he exercised a broader view of Nature and things and traced them to their legitimate causes, he would not have written that letter in the interest of New York trees and shrubs, but in the interest of Maine farmers and their productions. The salary of the Secretary was reduced to one hundred dollars, because as no volume was to be published, he would have but little work to do; but this one hundred dollar was not intended to cover expenses. The following is the section of the act relating to the Secretary:

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One of the trees on Jewankee Neck, raised what we used to call the "Pomroy apple," because it was planted by a Mr. Pomroy who settled there and owned the land. It was a long, sweet apple, but beautiful in flavor and highly relished by those to whom it was given. I wish I had one now. I know I should enjoy it, as well as any in the market, at the present day. And all the while we have been in the young trees of the present time, come from seeds which have been planted by the hands of the fathers; and they have had good fruit or else we never could be able to grow them.

But, every one must have his own ideas and opinions; and I would not give much for a man who has no ideas of his own, who says yes to everything, and who has no other approval of what he has said, excepting that he knows that he is right. With regard to grafting, almost every one is in favor of it, and if he is going to set out trees, practices it; and he may be considered an old one who does not favor it. But the many sometimes are mistaken.

D. Q. CUSHMAN.

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I find in your paper of March 20, an inquiry from a dairyman of Winthrop, in regard to raising cream in twelve hours, and about the system of Mr. (Maurice?) and any system but the Cooley system. Two years ago I commenced experimenting with the Cooley system, and have since used it. I have had very many doubts about it, but I have been able to produce it. I had an idea that the cream could not be raised so quick. The milk that we set in pans to rise in the morning, and cream would rise; but after setting six or eight hours we found no cream, and the milk was sour. I then tried the Cooley system, and the milk was sweet and the cream was raised in twelve hours. I have since used it, and have been able to produce it. I have had very many doubts about it, but I have been able to produce it. I had an idea that the cream could not be raised so quick. 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BADGE

Vol. Σ

Main

Mechanics

A too common neglect to the soils, and to several causes. undertakes to cultivate well, it lightly in on cases it is doubt

air, and the fe  
ganic but inc

What is technically plants represent drawn from the mature wheat and grain, we find from the soil ashes. The ash will be found that from the containing greater than the soil, more than half the amount of silica essential to plants in the form of solution will be found in the soil, nearly as phosphoric.

The large amount is essential to the chief use of the grain and corn and the straw as food for the cattle. In the grain, it is needed in the formation of the starch in the grain is immediately used in the formation of the starch or unbelated flour that from fine ingredients for the animal systems. The product gives superior results on an acre.

The fact that organic substance growth and the importance thoroughly mix the soil, and

## the surface so

composed of sand. But in the summer put in deep enough site amount of thoroughly mixed following this year, the soil will be deep and moist. The effect of plowing surface and in the spilt, while the roots strike down a severe drought.

In the lands that should always be moist lands in deep plowing advantage, because largely of the deep and a portion of the soil, and to give it due protection vegetation. It contains too large material, and should be broken up, and should be broken up. Clay on the soil. It follows be benefitted a clayey soil is sometimes upon clay and should be mixed in order to secure texture. Adding and adding and then more so.

A great part often lost through the soil produced upon its physical

both organic  
require to, in

omponent, though together, a farmer's fallow plowed, will following the coalition for the different good pulverizer every farmer, of land it shows soils are we know.

There should be the result careful examination was the rule vicinity to suit harrowing over narrow rows, deemed sufficient as to the result but what we arbitrary rule result as they should be new plowed. The preparatory and especially against beet, stains everything then that the condition to be plants. Note which is only norance.

The wood mations for high week to come week in New

Another advantage

